Coolify Hosting: Easy VPS Setup Guide

Coolify hosting makes it easier to deploy and manage web applications, Docker containers, databases, and other services on your own VPS.
Instead of manually configuring every application through the command line, Coolify provides a centralized interface for managing projects, deployments, domains, and services.
But before setting up Coolify, one important question is:

What kind of VPS do you need for Coolify?
In this guide, we'll explain what Coolify is, why you might use a VPS for Coolify hosting, the basic server requirements, how to install and configure it, how to deploy applications, and what to consider before using it in production.

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What Is Coolify?

Coolify is an open-source, self-hostable platform that helps developers deploy and manage applications on their own infrastructure.
It works with Docker and can be used to manage:

- Web applications
- Docker containers
- Databases
- Static websites
- APIs
- Git-based deployments
- Background services

Instead of manually managing every deployment from the command line, you can use Coolify's interface to organize applications, connect repositories, configure deployments, and manage services.

In simple terms, self-hosted Coolify gives you a management layer for applications running on your own server.

Why Host Coolify on a VPS?

A VPS provides the infrastructure required for Coolify hosting and your applications. unlike shared hosting, a VPS gives you more control over the operating system, resources, applications, and server configuration. a VPS is particularly useful when you want to run multiple applications, databases, containers, or development projects from the same server.

Key Benefits of Using a VPS for Coolify

- More control:
  You control your server environment, applications, and configurations.
- Flexible resources:
  You can choose CPU, RAM, and storage according to your workload.
- Multiple applications:
  A suitable VPS can run multiple applications and services from the same environment.
- Docker-based deployments:
  Coolify uses containerized workflows, making it easier to manage different applications.
- Scalability:
  You can increase your VPS resources as your projects grow.
  For developers, agencies, startups, and businesses managing multiple applications, this creates a flexible Coolify hosting environment.

What Do You Need for Coolify Hosting?

Before starting your Coolify hosting setup, you'll need a compatible VPS and a supported server environment.

Your requirements depend on what you plan to run because Coolify is only one part of the workload. Applications, databases, containers, logs, and other services also consume resources.

VPS – Your VPS will host Coolify and your applications. Choose your server based on your expected workload rather than simply selecting the cheapest plan.

If you're planning to run multiple applications or databases, choose a VPS with enough CPU, RAM, and storage for the combined workload.

Choosing the right VPS is an important part of building a reliable Coolify hosting environment.

Supported Operating System – Coolify is designed for Linux-based server environments. before installation, check the official Coolify documentation for currently supported operating systems and versions.

RAM – RAM requirements depend on your applications.

Running Coolify alone requires fewer resources than running Coolify with several applications, databases, and background services.

CPU – CPU requirements also depend on workload. Simple websites require fewer resources than application builds, APIs, databases, or multiple containers.

Storage –Your storage may be used by:

- Application files
- Docker images
- Databases
- Logs
- Backups
- Uploaded files

NVMe SSD storage can be useful for workloads where storage performance matters.

How to Host Coolify on a VPS

Once your VPS is ready, you can begin your Coolify hosting setup. the installation process can change between Coolify releases, so verify the current requirements and installation instructions in the official documentation before installing.

Provision Your VPS

Create a VPS with resources appropriate for your workload.
Before installation, make sure:

- The operating system is supported
- You have root or administrative access
- Your server has a public IP address
- Required network access is available
- Your domain is ready if you plan to use one

If you're comparing server options, choose a VPS based on your application's resource requirements rather than price alone.

Connect to Your VPS

You can connect to a Linux VPS using SSH.
From your local terminal, the connection generally looks like: `ssh root@YOUR_SERVER_IP`
Replace `YOUR_SERVER_IP` with your VPS's public IP address.
Once connected, update your server. For Debian- or Ubuntu-based systems, this commonly involves: `apt update && apt upgrade -y`
always verify commands for your specific operating system before making system-level ch

anges.

Install Coolify

Coolify provides an installation method for supported environments.
For example: `curl -fsSL https://cdn.coollabs.io/coolify/install.sh | bash`

Important: Installation commands can change between releases. Always verify the latest installation command in the official Coolify documentation before running it.

After installation, Coolify will provide the information required to access the dashboard.

Access the Coolify Dashboard

Access the Coolify interface using your server's IP address or configured domain. from the dashboard, you can configure infrastructure, connect applications, and manage deployments. this is one of the main advantages of Coolify: instead of managing every deployment entirely through the command line, you get a centralized interface for managing your applications.

How to Configure a Domain for Coolify

For production applications, using a domain is preferable to accessing services through an IP address.
For example: coolify.yourdomain.com

Create the appropriate DNS record through your domain or DNS provider and point it toward your VPS. once DNS is configured, connect the domain within your Coolify environment. a properly configured domain makes your Coolify hosting environment easier to access and manage.

For production applications, make sure HTTPS is configured correctly before sending users to the application.

How to Connect GitHub or GitLab to Coolify

Coolify supports Git-based deployment workflows. you can connect a repository containing your application and configure Coolify to deploy it. a typical workflow looks like:

Git Repository → Coolify → Build Application → Docker Container → Live Application

With Coolify hosting, developers can push changes to their repository and use the deployment workflow instead of manually transferring files to the server.

How to Deploy Your First Application With Coolify

Once your repository is connected, create a new application inside Coolify. depending on your application, you may configure:

- Repository
- Branch
- Build method
- Environment variables
- Port
- Domain
- Health checks
- Deployment settings

Coolify then uses these settings to build and deploy the application.

The configuration will vary depending on whether you’re deploying a Node.js

application, PHP application, Python application, static website, Docker image, or another supported workload.

How to Add a Database in Coolify

If your application requires a database, Coolify can also help manage supported database services.
A typical application architecture could look like:

Frontend → Backend → Database

When multiple services run on the same VPS, consider their combined resource requirements. a VPS that comfortably runs one application may not have enough CPU, RAM, or storage for several applications and databases.
This is why choosing your Coolify hosting infrastructure based on your complete workload is important.

How Much VPS Resource Do You Need for Coolify?

There isn’t one VPS configuration that works for every Coolify deployment.your requirements depend on the applications and services you plan to run.

Use Case	Resource Consideration

Testing Coolify	Smaller VPS may be sufficient
Personal projects	Moderate resources
Multiple websites	More RAM and CPU recommended
SaaS applications	Higher resources may be required
Multiple databases	Additional RAM and storage
Production workloads	Prioritize reliability and scalability

The key rule is:

Don’t size your VPS only for Coolify. Size it for Coolify plus the applications you intend to run.

If you're planning to host multiple applications, explore HeroxHost's reliable VPS Hosting options and select resources according to your expected workload.

How to Secure Your Coolify Server

Installing Coolify is only the first step. a production Coolify server should also be properly secured. security should be considered from the beginning when setting up a production Coolify hosting environment.

SSH Security –Use strong authentication and limit unnecessary server access.

Firewall – Only expose the ports and services your applications actually require.

HTTPS- Use HTTPS for production applications and dashboards.

Updates –Keep your operating system, Coolify installation, and applications updated.

Backups –Back up important application and database data separately from the primary server.

Monitoring- Monitor CPU, RAM, disk usage, and application health to identify resource problems early.

VPS vs Traditional Hosting for Coolify

Traditional hosting and VPS hosting are designed for different use cases.

Choose Traditional Hosting When

Traditional hosting may be better when you:

- Want a simple website hosting experience
- Don't need server-level access
- Are running a standard website

- Prefer a managed environment

Choose a VPS With Coolify When

A VPS with Coolify is useful when you:

- Want to deploy custom applications
- Need greater server control
- Work with Docker-based applications
- Manage multiple services
- Need flexible server resources
- Want to self-host your deployment environment

For developers who need more control, Coolify hosting on a VPS provides greater flexibility than traditional shared hosting.

Who Should Use Coolify?

Coolify can be useful for:
Developers –Deploy applications without manually managing every deployment step.
Startups – Run multiple services while retaining control over infrastructure.
Agencies- Manage different applications and client projects in a flexible environment.
Freelancers – Deploy websites and applications for different clients.
Businesses – Self-host applications where infrastructure control is important.

Is Coolify Difficult to Manage?

Coolify simplifies application deployment, but it doesn't completely remove the need for server administration.
You should understand basic concepts such as:

- Linux
- SSH
- DNS
- Domains
- Firewall configuration
- Server resources
- Backups
- Application security

The advantage is that Coolify provides a management layer that makes many deployment tasks easier.

Common Coolify Hosting Mistakes to Avoid

Before you deploy Coolify on a VPS, avoid these common mistakes.

Choosing a VPS Based Only on Price

A low-cost VPS may not provide enough resources for your applications and databases.

Ignoring RAM Requirements

Coolify is only one part of your infrastructure. Applications, containers, databases, and background services also consume RAM.

Not Planning for Storage

Docker images, databases, logs, backups, and application files can increase storage usage over time.

Skipping Backups

A production server should have a reliable backup strategy for important application and database data.

Exposing Unnecessary Ports

Only expose services and ports that your applications actually require.

Is Coolify Suitable for Production?

Yes, Coolify can be used for production deployments. however, production environments should have appropriate:

- Security
- Backups
- Monitoring
- Server resources
- Application configuration
- Update procedures

A properly configured Coolify hosting environment can be used for production applications when the underlying VPS has sufficient resources and is properly maintained.

For larger workloads that require additional dedicated resources, you can also consider a Dedicated Server instead of running everything on a smaller VPS.

Frequently Asked Questions About Coolify Hosting

Can I Host Coolify on a VPS?

Yes. Coolify hosting is designed for self-hosted deployments and can run on a compatible VPS environment.

Is Coolify Free?

Coolify is open-source and can be self-hosted. Check the current Coolify documentation for the latest information about available editions and features.

Can I Run Multiple Applications on Coolify?

Yes. Coolify can manage multiple applications and services. The number you can run depends on your VPS resources and application requirements.

Can I Use Coolify for Production?

Yes. Coolify can be used for production deployments when the environment has appropriate security, backups, monitoring, and sufficient server resources.

Do I Need Docker to Use Coolify?

Coolify is built around containerized application deployment and uses Docker in its infrastructure. You don’t need to manually manage every Docker command, which is one of the benefits of using Coolify.

For more information about Docker and containers, refer to the official Docker documentation

Is VPS Better Than Shared Hosting for Coolify?

For Coolify, a VPS is the more appropriate environment because it provides the server-level access and resources required to run your deployment platform and applications.

Conclusion

Coolify provides developers with a simpler way to deploy and manage applications on their own infrastructure. however, the performance and reliability of your Coolify hosting environment ultimately depend on the VPS underneath it.
Choose enough CPU, RAM, and storage for your workload, secure the server properly, keep your applications updated, and monitor resource usage as your projects grow.

Ready to Deploy Coolify?

Get a Coolify-ready hosting environment built for easy deployment and application management.

Explore HeroxHost Coolify Hosting →

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